



Water Issues



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Vital Information on Water Issues Fall 1998

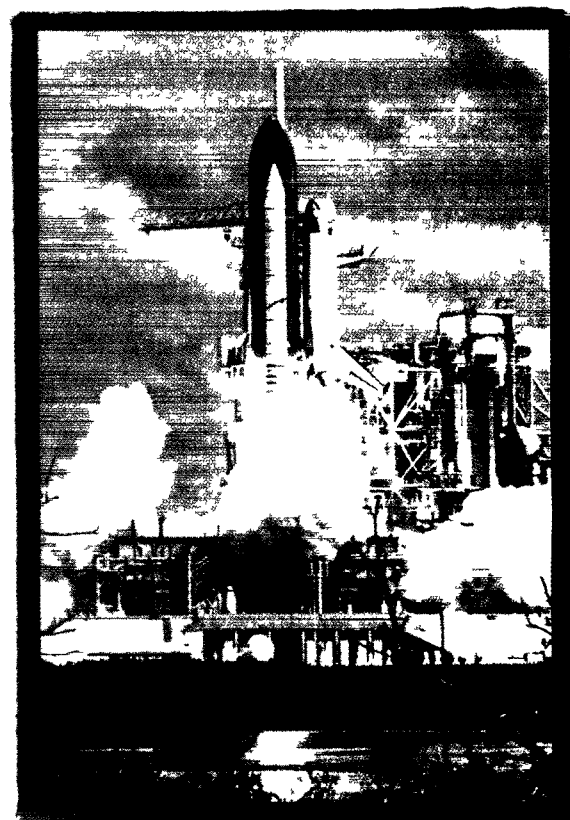
Groundwater Cleanup Success

Local Water Agencies Clean Up Rocket Fuel Ingredient

The Discovery Came Without Warning – Health authorities were measuring groundwater for traces of a rocket fuel ingredient called Perchlorate. When small amounts were discovered in a few local groundwater wells, water agencies swiftly shut them down because Perchlorate may be a threat to human health.

Detecting minute amounts of Perchlorate was made possible by a new laboratory technique that had recently been perfected. Although there was no practical cleanup method, and very little was known about the chemical, the water community was prepared to deal with it. As soon as the new testing procedure was available, water agencies tested wells across the San Gabriel Valley and organized the *San Gabriel Perchlorate Coordinating Team*. The *Team* conducts research, shares knowledge and develops methods to remove the substance from water supplies.

Even before state or federal Perchlorate requirements were set, the *Perchlorate Coordinating Team* became a national leader by guiding research strategies, and becoming the first organization to conduct pilot-scale tests for removing Perchlorate from drinking water. ♦



Local water agencies were prepared and responded swiftly when traces of a rocket fuel ingredient were found in a few wells.



San Gabriel Valley Water Association

Some Background Information

Perchlorate, a rocket fuel ingredient, was first discovered in the groundwater of a few local wells in 1997. The discovery occurred after new testing methods made it possible to detect the chemical at extremely low levels.

Immediately after being informed of the discovery, *Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster*, an agency responsible for local groundwater supply and quality, conducted Perchlorate testing across the entire San Gabriel Valley. Seven wells were found to contain Perchlorate in excess of state regulations and were promptly shut down wherever water could not be treated to water quality standards. ♦



Local groundwater supplies are regularly tested for quality by independent, state-approved laboratories.

Local Leadership Improves Water Quality

Teamwork Speeds Cleanup

Focused Research

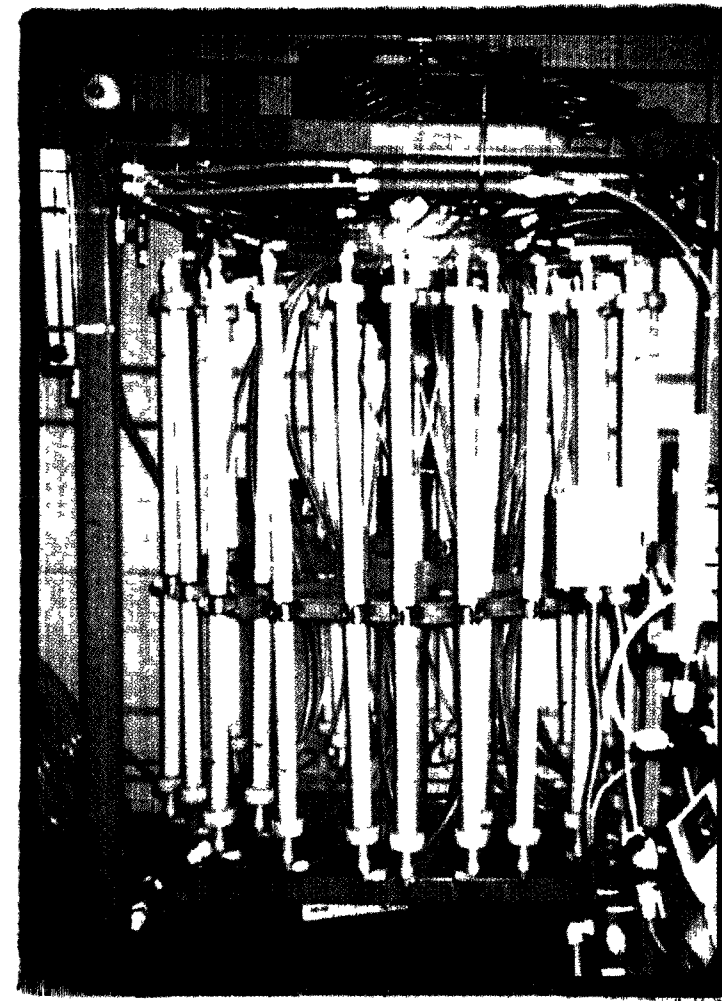
Soon after discovery of the Perchlorate contamination, *Watermaster*, a regional groundwater manager, co-sponsored a meeting of national water quality experts to determine what scientific studies would be needed on both the local and national levels. The goal was to target limited research funds so they would be most effectively used.

New Treatment Technologies

Locally, the *San Gabriel Perchlorate Coordinating Team* also addressed the development of new treatment technologies where none previously existed. The *Team* invited water treatment specialists to propose experimental treatment technologies. *Watermaster* contributed over \$400,000 to help pay for experimental programs and arranged for a test site. One water treatment company invested approximately \$150,000 to complete a successful test.

Watermaster also financed a scientific evaluation of a promising treatment technique. *Aerojet Corporation*, another member of the *Team*, developed a third process to remove Perchlorate from drinking water.

The *Team* is now working to develop a full-scale project for these treatment methods. ♦



EXPERIMENTAL WATER TREATMENT PLANT

Local water agencies promoted development of the first practical methods to remove Perchlorate from drinking water.

The treatment technology shown here uses an ion exchange process in which the Perchlorate is attracted to a special resin and exchanged for a harmless mineral. The process is similar to the operation of water softeners.

Water Agencies Go Beyond Requirements

Responsive Approach

Local water agencies' proactive approach to water quality has entered an exciting new phase through *Watermaster's Basin Water Quality Management Committee*. This multi-agency group is systematically reviewing a list of up to 800 chemicals to determine if any of them may pose future threats to water quality.

Solve Problems Early

If a potentially harmful chemical is uncovered, the group determines whether testing, research, treatment or other action is necessary to protect public health. Already, extensive testing has been conducted for several substances and no problem found. This forward-looking, proactive approach to water quality has put the San Gabriel Valley far ahead of the rest of the country in addressing problems before they become a threat and developing solutions early. ♦



San Gabriel Valley Water Association

Why We Brought You This Message

Clean water is vital to life, but is easily taken for granted. However, modern society creates literally thousands of chemicals that can enter the air, food, soil and water. Possibly, more than any other substance, water is continuously tested, treated and monitored to ensure its safety. This newsletter describes the extraordinary team effort by San Gabriel Valley water agencies to develop solutions that ensure clean, safe water for all customers. ♦

Recycled Water: Supply For The Future

Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District completed engineering plans and is obtaining permits to construct a new \$14 million recycled water project.

The new facility will provide 10,000 acre-feet of recycled water per year, equivalent to the annual water usage of 20,000 families. Recycled water, which is already intensely treated, will be percolated into the groundwater for additional natural filtering through the soil. Recycled water is a reliable, low-cost source of water to supplement local water supplies. ♦

For More Information About Your Water

Phone: 626-815-1305 ♦ Fax: 626-815-1303 ♦ Web: www.deltanet.com/sgvw

Have an organization or group?

Consider inviting our speakers to bring an interesting full-color presentation on important water topics to your group.

Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster • San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority • San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District
• San Gabriel Valley Water Association • Three Valleys Municipal Water District • Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District

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